At 6:27 p.m. Harry Black (Moderator) administered the Oath and swore in the new Board Members.

I. Call Meeting: Ash called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ricker moved nominations open for Chair and Vice-Chair. Action: Motion made nominating Carol Sobetzer for Chair and Sandra Smith-Ordway as Vice Chair. Approved. Ash handed meeting over to Sobetzer.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: Sobetzer suggested changing Agenda to have Executive Session next, then presentations by Dr. Valentine, Teddy Reichert and John Milne, then Orford Academy Building Task Force. Action: Motion made to accept this suggestion in agenda change. Approved.

Board went into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. Board came out of Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

III. General Public Comments: None.

IV. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition:
   A. NEASC (D. Valentine): A NEASC team is visiting Rivendell Academy on May 3-6, with an opening event Sunday, May 3 (all Board members and staff to attend and parents, students, and community members are invited and encouraged to attend also). Seven areas of learning are evaluated; evaluators will “shadow” students for ½ day, then meet with teachers and staff. On the last day, there will be a staff meeting at which a Summary Report will be shared by the evaluators with the teachers. RISD will receive NEASC’s first report by August 1. Then RISD has two years to respond to that first report. RA will receive some type of NEASC accreditation on August 1st.
   B. Odyssey of the Mind (T. Reichert): OM’s successes were shared; May 1 will be performances and a fundraiser at RA. OM teams are traveling to the Nationals and doing great fundraising. Doug Tifft (former Board liaison and parent of student participants) encouraged the Board to support OM financially.
   C. Orford Academy Task Force: Committee members and architects spoke with the Board, delivering background information and a comprehensive report of three options of technical plans for the old Orford Academy building, ranging from sound protective efforts to full-blown community use of the building in three different options. The report
is a resource for the future and the building is sound and special. The Committee asked for another Board liaison, as Doug Tifft is no longer on the RISD Board.

V. Consent Agenda:
   A. Minutes (February 10, 2009, February 24 & March 3): Action: Motion made to approve February 10th minutes with correction (correct spelling of Ms. Reichert’s name on page 1, IV), and February 24th and March 3rd minutes without corrections. Approved.
   B. Head of Schools (Superintendent’s Report (written): Report was reviewed. Keiling reported that her meetings with new teachers went well and the mentoring program for new teachers provided more support - the object is to keep teachers. Keiling is currently having “goal meetings” with the Principals. Action: Motion made to approve report. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business
   A. Approve Teacher Hires for 2009/2010: Action: Motion made to approve teacher hires/renewals as presented by Head of Schools (Superintendent) for the 2009/2010 school year. Approved.
   B. Annual Meeting Review: Sobetzer commented that the Board should consider having more technology available in the form of presentations at the meetings in the future and Keiling suggested a PowerPoint presentation. Richardson praised Smith-Ordway and Sobetzer for their presentations and tone of delivery of information to the voters. Also noted was the Board’s ability to knowledgeably field constituents’ budget questions. Discussion was held regarding filling the empty West Fairlee Board position; Board will advertise.

VII. New Business
   A. Correspondence: None
   B. Executive Session: happened earlier – see above.
   C. Overnight Student Trips: 1) French Trip (April 8-25); 2) Senior Class Trip (May 26-28); Life Skills Trip (June 8-9); Odyssey of the Mind Trip (May 27-June 1); and Middle School 8th Grade Trip (June 17-18) - Discussion was held on student/chaperone ratio. Sobetzer raised the educational requirement of each trip previously required warrants reinstatement. Keiling raised that the goal and purpose of trips are required; Sobetzer stated that student planning is vital; Keiling said that the curriculum should be incorporated into the trips. All chaperones must be fingerprinted. Action: Motion made to approve all the above trips. Approved. Action: Motion made to approve OM funding as requested, as the money is available and the program is educationally focused. Approved. Sobetzer reminded Keiling that she is empowered to make the financial allocation without Board approval, Keiling replied that she sought Board support for the funding as there are many trips and not enough money to support all.
   D. Board Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2008-2009: An incorrect calendar was supplied, however, meetings are presently scheduled for May 5, 2009 and June 2, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Action: Motion made to accept these dates. Approved.
   E. Board Committees Regrouping
   F. Open School Board Seat – West Fairlee: Discussed earlier in VI, B – Annual Meeting Review (see above).

VIII. Strategic Action Plan
   A. Update (G. Keiling): Keiling reported that bids for the SME roof have been obtained, two with eliminating the 26 skylights, one with keeping them. Two of the bidding contractors were requested to re-bid with keeping the skylights. One contractor with the
original bid keeping the skylights offered a warranty, as did the other two. Smith-Ordway and DeBois participated in the bid review, along with the Director of Operations and Keiling. Repairs will start after school ends for the summer.

Discussion was held regarding starting a building committee. **Action:** Motion made that an ad hoc committee called the Building Committee be formed. **Approved.** DeBois volunteering to be the Board liaison working with the Director of Operations and Keiling to form this committee, hopefully, finding other committee members with contracting/building experience.

Board then discussed gardening/landscaping at the schools regarding a group of volunteer parents who previously had approached them regarding this. Board requested that Keiling contact the volunteer group.

Keiling announced that on May 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Rivendell Academy Library there will be a community forum of the “Profile of a RISD Student/Graduate” video. RISD’s Student Profile was outdated and has been revisited – it works backward and is student-focused as to what a RISD graduate really needs to succeed in today’s world. Curriculum will then be re-visited to give students the educational foundation they need to compete in today’s work and post-secondary educational forums.

**IX. Adjournment: Action:** Motion made to adjourn. **Approved.** Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Levin Sarazin
Board Recording Secretary